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BULLETIN

To the Faculty, Staff and Students of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Vol. 22 No. 7
March 22, 1991

MEMO TO: The University Community
FROM: Earl Lazerson *E. L.*
SUBJECT: University Self-Study, 1991-93

The regular review of the University's accreditation status by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools is scheduled for April, 1993. In preparation for the site visit, the University must undertake a comprehensive self-study, the first priority of which is to state effectively the University's case for continued accreditation. Following consultation with the Provost and the constituency heads, I have appointed Galen Pletcher as Coordinator of self-study, and he has begun the development of plans for the self-study process and the creation of the self-study document.

The University's self-study coincides with the curricular, programmatic and administrative reviews associated with conversion to a semester calendar. I have directed that the self-study be closely integrated with the conversion process and that the University use its conversion activities to address the four criteria basic to the North Central Association's review of institutions of higher education. Namely, an accredited institution:

- 1 has clear and publicly stated purposes, consistent with its mission and appropriate to a postsecondary educational institution;
- 2 has effectively organized adequate human, financial and physical resources into educational and other programs to accomplish its purposes;
- 3 is accomplishing its purposes;
- 4 can continue to accomplish its purposes.

The administrative audit that I have recently commissioned will be an important step in the evaluation of the effectiveness of the organization of the University. The self-studies that units conduct for the annual RAMP reports, the graduate and undergraduate program reviews, and the growing body of assessment data are also important sources of material for the self-study report.

I have requested that the self-study be highly focused, with succinct descriptions of programs, intensive evaluation of all units, and realistic projections of the near term prospects of the University and its programs. In the course of the next few months, the Provost will form a Steering Committee to work with the Coordinator to design and monitor all aspects of the self-study process through the period of the team's visit in April, 1993.

Effective self-study is an important link in the process leading to accreditation. I thank you in advance for your contributions to this vital task.